

All Regional Engineers

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Special Provision for Elastomeric Bearings

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This special provision was developed by the Bureau of Materials and Physical Research and the Bureau of Bridges and Structures to address a discrepancy between the current Standard Specifications and AASHTO M 251. This special provision reflects the testing and quality parameters which are currently used to produce elastomeric bearings.

This special provision should be inserted into all contracts requiring elastomeric bearings.

The districts should include the BDE Check Sheet marked with the applicable special provisions for the April 29, 2005 and subsequent lettings. The Project Development and Implementation Section will include a copy in the contract.

This special provision will be available on the transfer directory January 14, 2005.

80144m

## ELASTOMERIC BEARINGS (BDE)

Effective: April 1, 2005

Revise Section 1083 of the Standard Specifications to read:

### “SECTION 1083. ELASTOMERIC BEARINGS

**1083.01 Description.** Elastomeric bearings shall consist of steel laminated elastomeric pads or assemblies of steel laminated elastomeric pads with externally bonded structural steel bearing plates, structural steel top bearing plate, and required stainless steel and TFE sheets, as shown on the plans and as specified herein.

Shop drawings of the bearing assemblies shall be submitted to the Engineer. The bearing assemblies shall be furnished as a complete unit from one manufacturing source.

**1083.02 Materials.** Materials shall be according to the following.

- (a) Properties of the Elastomer. The elastomer compound used in the construction of the bearings shall contain only virgin crystallization resistant polychloroprene (neoprene) or virgin natural polyisoprene (natural rubber) as the raw polymer. All materials shall be new with no reclaimed material incorporated in the finished bearing. The elastomer compounds shall be classified as being of low-temperature, Grade 3, as specified by the minimum grade requirements of Table 14.7.5.2-2, “Low Temperature Zones and Minimum Grade of Elastomer”, of the AASHTO LRFD Bridge Design Specification. Low temperature zones used in this table are as defined in Figure 14.7.5.2-1, “Temperature Zones”, of the same publication.

The cured elastomer shall be according to the following requirements. The properties of the cured elastomeric compound material shall be determined using samples taken from actual bearings.

Material <sup>1/ 2/</sup> Property	ASTM Standard	Test Requirements	Polyisoprene (Natural Rubber)	Polychloroprene (Neoprene)
Physical Properties	D 2240	Hardness	55 ± 5 Shore “A” points	55 ± 5 Shore “A” points
	D 412	Min. Tensile Strength	15,500 kPa (2250 psi)	15,500 kPa (2250 psi)
		Min. Ultimate Elongation	400%	400%
Heat Resistance	D 573 at Specified Temp.	Specified Temperature of Test	70 °C (158 °F)	100 °C (212 °F)
		Aging Time	168 hours	70 hours
		Max. Change in Durometer hardness	+10 Shore “A” points	+15 Shore “A” points
		Max. Change in Tensile Strength	-25%	-15%

		Max. Change in Ultimate Elongation	-25%	-40%
Adhesion <sup>3/</sup> to Steel	Illinois Test Procedure 603	Bond Strength (Peel Test)	7 N/mm (40 lb/in.)	7 N/mm (40 lb/in.)
	D 429, B	Adhesion Failure	R-80%	R-80%

1/ All material tests shall be conducted at  $23 \pm 2^{\circ}\text{C}$  ( $73 \pm 4^{\circ}\text{F}$ ) unless otherwise noted.

2/ For the purpose of determining conformance with this specification, an observed or calculated value shall be rounded off to the nearest 100 kPa (10 psi) for tensile strength, to the nearest ten percent of elongation, and to the nearest one percent for change in aged tensile and aged elongation. Hardness and aged hardness shall be rounded off to nearest point according to AASHTO R 11.

3/ The adhesion failure requirement is waived if bond strength equals or exceeds 14 N/mm (80 lb/in.).

- (b) TFE Material. The TFE resin shall be 100 percent virgin material, premium grade, meeting the requirements of ASTM D 4894. The TFE sheet (polytetrafluoroethylene sheet, premium grade) shall consist of pure TFE resin, compression molded and skived into sheets of the required thickness. The finished sheet shall conform to the following.

ASTM Standard	Physical Properties
D 638M (D 638)	Tensile strength min, kPa (psi) 19,300 (2800)
D 638M (D 638)	Elongation, min % 200
D 792	Specific Gravity 2.15-2.20
D 2240	Hardness, Durometer D 50-65
D 621	Deformation Under Load
	23 °C/690 kPa/24 hrs (73 °F/100 psi/24 hrs), % 2-3
	50 °C/8,300 kPa/24 hrs (122 °F/1200 psi/24 hrs), % 4-8
	23 °C/13,800 kPa/24 hrs (73 °F/2000 psi/24 hrs), % 15 max.
D 570	Water Absorption, % 0.01 max.
	Static Coef. of Friction
	at 3450 kPa (500 psi) bearing pressure on stainless steel, max 0.07
D 429, B	Adhesion to Steel
	Peel Strength, N/mm (lb/in.) 4.4 (25)

- (c) Stainless Steel Sheets. The stainless steel sheets shall be of the thickness specified and shall conform to ASTM A 240, Type 304. The sliding surface shall have a Type 2B finish or smoother as per the American Society of Metals.

- (d) Structural Steel. Structural steel components shall be according to the following.

- (1) Structural Steel Bearing Plates. The structural steel bearing plates shall conform to the requirements of AASHTO M 270M Grade 250 (M 270, Grade 36).

- (2) Internal Steel Laminates. The internal steel laminates for the laminated elastomeric bearings shall be rolled mild steel sheets conforming to AISI 1015 - 1025, inclusive, ASTM A 1008 (A 1008M) or ASTM A 1011 (A 1011M) for less than 5 mm (3/16 in.) thick sheets, or AASHTO M 270M, Grade 250 (M 270, Grade 36) or ASTM A 283M (A 283) Grade D for 5 mm (3/16 in.) and thicker sheets.
- (3) Shear Restrictor Pin. The shear restrictor pin, when required, shall be press fit into the bearing plate and shall be alloy steel, quenched, and tempered to a minimum yield strength 1,450,000 kPa (210,000 psi) or RC hardness of 50 to 55.
- (4) Threaded Stud. The threaded stud, nuts and washers, when required, shall conform to the requirements of ASTM A 449 or A 193-B7 and shall be galvanized according to Article 1006.08 of the Standard Specifications.

**1083.03 Fabrication Requirements.** Bearings with steel laminates shall be cast as a unit in a mold and bonded and vulcanized under heat and pressure. The molds shall have standard shop practice mold finish. The internal steel laminates shall be blast cleaned to a condition matching that of SSPC-Vis 1-01, Pictorial Standard SP6, and additionally cleaned of any oil or grease before bonding. External load plates shall be protected from rusting by the manufacturer, and shall be hot bonded to the bearing during vulcanization. The bond of steel components to and within the elastomeric pads shall be continuous throughout the plan area with no voids or air spaces greater than 2.5 mm (0.10 in.) within the bonding material. Bearings with steel laminates which are designed to act as a single unit with a given shape factor must be manufactured as a single unit. Corners and edges may be rounded with a radius at the corners not exceeding 10 mm (3/8 in.) and a radius at the edges not exceeding 6 mm (1/4 in.).

Bonding of TFE sheets shall be done as noted on the plans. No rubber flash will be permitted on the edges of TFE bearing surfaces. All burrs or raised edges along the perimeter of the TFE surface shall be removed before shipment.

All dimension tolerances shall be according to the following.

Dimensions	Tolerances	
	mm	(in.)
Overall vertical dimensions:		
Design thickness; 32 mm (1 1/4 in.) or less	-0, + 3	(-0, + 1/8)
Design thickness; over 32 mm (1 1/4 in.)	-0, + 6	(-0, + 1/4)
Overall horizontal dimensions:		
For measurements 914 mm (36 in.) and less	-0, + 6	(-0, + 1/4)
For measurements over 914 mm (36 in.)	-0, + 12	(-0, + 1/2)
Thickness of individual layers of elastomer at any point within the bearing:	± 20 % of design value but no more than ± 3 mm (1/8 in.)	
Variation from a plane parallel to the theoretical surface: (as determined by measurements at the edge of the bearings)		
Top	Slope relative to the bottom of no more than 0.005 radians.	
Sides	6	(1/4)
Position of exposed connection members:	± 3	(± 1/8)
Edge cover of embedded steel laminates, restraining devices, holes and slots:	+ 3 min. + 6 max.	(+ 1/8 min.) (+ 1/4 max.)
Size of holes, slots, or inserts:	± 3	(± 1/8)
Position of holes, slots, or inserts:	± 3	(± 1/8)

Structural steel bearing plates shall be fabricated according to Article 505.04 of the Standard Specifications. Prior to shipment of the bearing assemblies, the exposed edges and other exposed portions of the structural steel bearing plates shall be cleaned and painted in accordance with Articles 506.03 and 506.04 of the Standard Specifications. Painting shall be with the zinc-silicate primer according to Article 1008.22 of the Standard Specifications. During the cleaning and painting, the stainless steel and TFE sheet sliding surfaces and the elastomer shall be protected from abrasion and paint.

**1083.04 Testing and Acceptance.** The rubber laminates shall be of uniform integral units, capable of being separated by mechanical means into separate, well-defined elastomeric layers. The ultimate breakdown limit of the elastomeric bearing under compressive loading shall be not less than 13,800 kPa (2000 psi).

The bearing manufacturer shall load test each completed steel laminated elastomeric bearing pad assembly prior to shipment. The bearings shall be loaded to 10,300 kPa (1500 psi) and under this loading shall exhibit relatively uniform bulging of the rubber layers on all sides and shall show no bond loss or edge splitting. Bearing assemblies under this loading showing nonuniform bulging from one side of the pad to the other, nonuniform bulging along any vertical face of a pad, bulging extending across the specified location of one or more of the internal steel laminates or edge splitting shall be replaced. Nonuniform bulging from one side of the pad to the other may be an indication of lateral misalignment of the internal steel laminates and would not be cause for replacement if probing shows that the edge cover of the steel laminates are within the specified tolerances. Nonuniform bulging along any vertical face of the pad may be

an indication of vertical misalignment of the steel laminates and would not be cause for replacement if measurement of the bases of the nonuniform bulges show that the thickness of the elastomeric layers are within the specified  $\pm 20$  percent tolerance. Bulging across the specified location of one or more steel laminates indicates missing steel laminates or lack of bond and pads exhibiting these characteristics shall always be replaced.

The Contractor shall furnish certified copies of the bearing manufacturer's test reports on the physical properties of the component materials for the bearings to be furnished and a certification by the bearing manufacturer that the bearings furnished have been load tested and conform to all requirements.

When directed by the Engineer, the Contractor shall furnish random samples of component materials used in the bearings for testing. In addition, when requested in writing by the Engineer, the Contractor shall furnish an additional project bearing assembly to the Department for testing. When the additional bearing assembly is requested, the Engineer retains the right to select the bearing assembly for testing at random from the project lot. The Contractor will be paid for the additional bearing assembly as specified in Article 503.22 of the Standard Specifications. If the bearing assembly tested is found to be unacceptable, two additional bearing assemblies will be tested. If both are acceptable, the lot will be accepted. If either of the two additional bearing assemblies are unacceptable, the lot will be rejected. The Contractor shall have a new lot produced, including one additional test bearing. No payment will be made for the original failed bearing assembly or any subsequent test assemblies."